Fish & Wildlife Division

RESOURCE STATUS AND ASSESSMENT BRANCH

Alberta Inventory for the Northern Leopard Frog (2000/2001)

Alberta Species at Risk Report No. 44

Alberta
SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

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Kris Kendell

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April 2002

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For copies of this report, contact:

Information Center – Publications
Alberta Environment/Alberta Sustainable Resource Development
Main Floor, Great West Life Building
9920 108 Street
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Telephone: (780) 422-2079

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Information Service
Alberta Environment/Alberta Sustainable Resource Development
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Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2E 7J2

Telephone: (403) 297-3362

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The northern leopard frog (*Rana pipiens*) was once a widespread species found throughout much of southern and central Alberta. In the late 1970s, the leopard frog exhibited a dramatic decline in distribution and numbers throughout much of its historic range in Alberta. Today, the leopard frog is designated as "Threatened" under Alberta's *Wildlife Act*. The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) lists the prairie population of *Rana pipiens* as "Special Concern" (COSEWIC 2001).

Since 1990, no province-wide survey has been conducted to assess distribution and status of extant populations of the leopard frog in Alberta. A two-year inventory project was initiated in 2000 and completed in 2001 to collect information on the current status of the leopard frog in the province and to determine possible changes in population numbers and distribution. In total, 297 leopard frog sites were compiled for investigation. These sites were obtained from record information held in the Alberta Fish and Wildlife Division, Biodiversity Species Observation Database (BSOD).

To help increase the efficiency and maximize survey efforts for leopard frogs, a survey protocol was drafted in the spring of 2000 and subsequently revised in 2002. The protocol recommended the use of call surveys and an area search technique (visual encounter survey) as the primary survey method for leopard frogs. However, call surveys were employed on a very limited basis in the spring because of time constraints and were subsequently abandoned for more efficient visual encounter surveys later in the summer. Surveys were conducted in potentially suitable frog habitat to maximize the chance of observations and targeted in late summer to correspond with the emergence of young-of-the-year frogs. The late summer surveys also provided an added benefit of identifying waterbodies used for breeding and determining the successful development eggs and metamorphosis of tadpoles.

In total, 269 sites were investigated for the northern leopard frog in 2000 and 2001 and frogs were found at 54 of these sites. The majority of the leopard frog observations were associated with major river drainages including the lower Red Deer River, the Oldman River, the South Saskatchewan River, lower Bow River and the Milk River. Leopard frogs were also observed in the Cypress Hills region, Willow Creek drainage (west of Stavely) and in the extreme northeast region of Alberta.

Presence data at surveyed sites in 2000-2001 was compared to survey results from a provincial leopard frog inventory conducted by Sweet Grass Consultants Ltd. in 1990 (Wershler 1991). Results in 2000-2001 indicate that the northern leopard frog has experienced additional local extirpations over the last decade from four occupied sites that were surveyed in 1990. Findings from the 2000-2001 inventory also suggest that the species has not re-colonized formerly occupied parts of its range since its dramatic decline in the 1970s. In addition, many of the existing leopard frog sites remain fragmented and isolated. This, in-conjunction with the low recolonization potential of the leopard frog, may result in further local loss of populations if these sites experience disease, disturbance or catastrophic events such as winter mortality caused by anoxic conditions or loss of breeding habitat over consecutive years because of drought.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The northern leopard frog (*Rana pipiens*) is a member of the family Ranidae or 'true frogs'. Ranidae representatives can be found on all continents except Antarctica (Stebbins and Cohen 1995). *Rana pipiens* is broadly distributed across central North America (Figure 1). With the exception of local extirpations of populations (especially in the western portion of its range), the current and historical ranges are by and large similar (Wagner 1997).

Figure 1. North American range of the northern leopard frog (adapted from Stebbins 1985).

Once considered to be a wide-ranging species with considerable variation (Moore 1944), more recently the leopard frog has been recognized to be a part of a complex of several species. This complex is based primarily on a wide difference in body size, coloration and pattern (Nace et al. 1996) as well as call structure (Pace 1974). *Rana pipiens* is the only member of the complex found in Canada (Seburn and Seburn 1998).

The northern leopard frog is a slim frog with smooth skin and long hind legs that are used for powerful leaps and swimming. Mature female frogs are somewhat larger than male frogs and may obtain a total body length (snout-to-vent) of about 10 cm. Typically, background skin coloration ranges from various shades of green to brown; occasionally golden, blue or other colour morphs are described (Nace et al. 1996, Russell and Bauer 2000). The leopard frog can be easily distinguished from other frog and toad species in the province by the presence of a pair of continuous lightly coloured ridges extending behind the eyes to the lower back near the groin.

They also possess circular dark spots with light borders, which are irregularly placed on the dorsal aspect of the frog (Russell and Bauer 2000) (Figure 2).

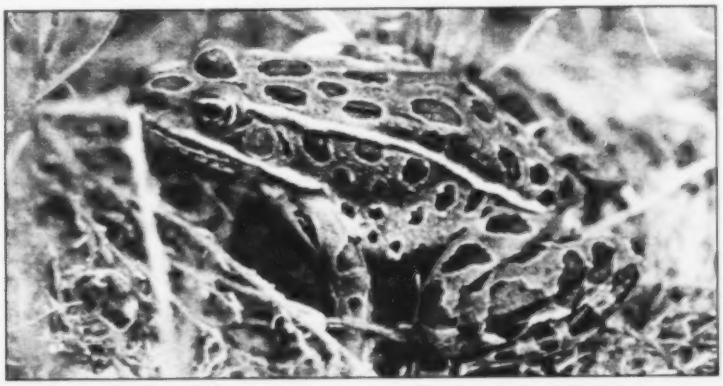


Figure 2. Northern leopard frog (*Rana pipiens*).

Rana pipiens can be found in a wide variety of terrestrial and aquatic habitats that, in combination, provide suitable breeding, summer and winter habitat. The leopard frog commonly breeds in marshes, sloughs, oxbows, beaver ponds, shallow bays and margins of lakes and quiet backwaters of streams and rivers (Merrell and Rodell 1968, Eddy 1976, Cottonwood Consultants 1986, Wershler 1991, Seburn and Seburn 1998). Generally, breeding habitat has some degree of permanence, abundant aquatic and emergent vegetation and areas of shallow water that receive direct sunlight for the deposition of egg masses (Wershler 1991, Gilbert et al. 1994). Later, the frogs typically spend the summer near water, which they can easily access to escape predators. However, they have a tendency to wander, and if sufficient moisture and cover vegetation are available, they may be found a considerable distance from waterbodies (Hine et al. 1981, Seburn et al. 1997). Leopard frogs hibernate underwater in aquatic environments to escape freezing temperatures (Emery et al. 1972, Cunjak 1986, McAdam and Nagel-Hisey 1998, Ultsch et al. 2000). To ensure winter survival, they require waterbodies that do not freeze to the bottom and possess adequate dissolved oxygen levels and water temperatures.

Once a common and widespread species throughout much of Canada, *Rana pipiens* has declined or vanished from much of the western and northern portion of its range (Wagner 1997, Seburn and Seburn 1998). The decline began in the 1960s in eastern North America and spread westward reaching Alberta in the late 1970s (Roberts 1981, Roberts 1994, Wagner 1997). Based on the Alberta Natural Region Classification System[1] (Achuff et al. 1988), the leopard frog once ranged from the Grassland Natural Region, north into the Parkland Natural Region and west into the Southern Foothill Subregion of Alberta. Today, it is confined primarily to the south and southeast portions of the province, primarily occupying the Mixedgrass and Dry Mixedgrass Subregions (including the Montane Subregion of the Cypress Hills). A remnant extent population occurs in the extreme northeast portion of the province, east of Wood Buffalo National Park, in the Kazan Upland Subregion.

[1] To view a current map depicting the Natural Regions and Subregions of Alberta visit the Alberta Natural Heritage Information Centre (ANHIC) web site: (http://www.cd.gov.ab.ca/preserving/parks/anhic/abnatreg.html).

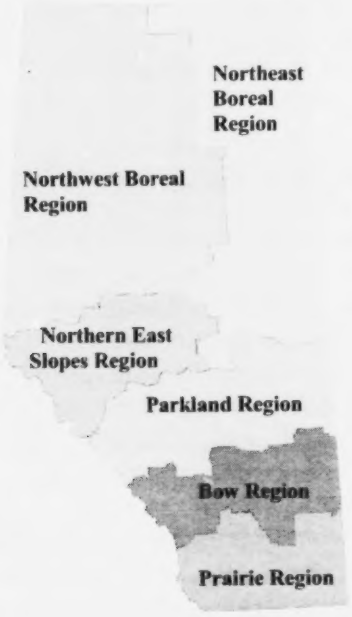
In Manitoba and Saskatchewan, the historic range of the leopard frog appears to be intact, although the number and size of populations have decreased (Seburn and Seburn 1998). In British Columbia, *Rana pipiens* is virtually extirpated, with only a single small population persisting within the Creston Valley (Seburn and Seburn 1998, D. Adama, pers. comm.). In Alberta, the decline resulted in a significant range contraction and reduction in population numbers, leaving the leopard frog absent from much of its northern and western range limit (Wagner 1997). Available information on extant leopard frog populations in Alberta suggests it is largely extirpated from the Central Parkland and Lower Foothills Subregions, and it is completely absent from the North Saskatchewan and upper Red Deer River drainage basins (Wagner 1997, Biodiversity Species Observation Database 2000). Consequently, in 1996 the northern leopard frog was designated as "Threatened" under Alberta's *Wildlife Act*.

Factors responsible for this dramatic decline in populations and numbers in western Canada (including Alberta) are unclear. Disease, drought and degradation and loss of habitat are commonly suggested as possible agents responsible for the decline. However, no single factor or combinations of casual factors have been demonstrated (Roberts 1981, 1994). Specific natural history requirements make the leopard frog particularly sensitive to human activities and natural events. For example, because the species hibernates underwater during the winter, it is susceptible to water management and use practices that could potentially affect water depth and flow rates during the winter. The degradation of wintering habitat could lead to high winter mortality if the water column completely freezes or conditions under the ice become anoxic. This, coupled with the perceived decline in numbers and populations, led to the prairie population being listed as "Special Concern" by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC 2001).

A number major breeding sites of leopard frogs are well known in Alberta and have been documented in some detail over recent times (e.g., Wershler 1992, Yaremko 1994, Hofman 1995, Seburn et al. 1997). However, until this study, little attention had been given to a relatively large number of historic leopard frog sites in the province. As a result, virtually no information was available regarding the current status of these sites. The purpose of the northern leopard frog inventory was to clarify the status of the leopard frog in Alberta as of 2001. The main objectives of the inventory were to: (1) determine the occurrence of leopard frogs at historic and more current sites; (2) determine relative abundance of leopard frogs at sites where they exist; (3) determine breeding success of leopard frogs at sites where they exist; and (4) determine a trend in occupancy at sites, compared to survey results of Wershler (1991).

2.0 STUDY AREA

The leopard frog inventory was conducted on a province-wide scale and encompassed all of Alberta. Surveys were conducted in all Alberta Fish and Wildlife Division regions (Map 1) where previous leopard frog records were found. The majority of the work was conducted in the Prairie, Bow and Parkland Regions, where the bulk of the records occurred. In contrast, relatively few records occurred in the Northwest Boreal, Northeast Boreal and Northern East Slopes Regions. As a result, work in these regions was minimal.



Map 1. Map depicting Fish and Wildlife Division regional boundaries in Alberta.

3.0 METHODS

3.1 Compilation of Survey Sites

Leopard frog sites to be investigated were obtained from the Biodiversity Species Observation Database (BSOD). Maintained by Alberta Fish and Wildlife Division, BSOD stores observational data primarily on species at risk or of undetermined status. Information held in this database is directly available to employees of Alberta Fish and Wildlife Division and the Alberta Conservation Association. The data is also available to the public by contacting one of the organizations mentioned above. All survey personnel had access to the database and could review the leopard frog records within it.

Each survey site was linked to at least one leopard frog record held in BSOD. However, sites with more than one associated BSOD record (occasionally dozens) were not uncommon. This phenomenon occurred when a number of BSOD records, generated by a variety of sources, over several dates, resulted in a number of records linked to the same site or general area. As a result, records associated with the same site were grouped together, resulting in a smaller number of

records to be investigated, while leaving the total number of sites to be surveyed unchanged. Generally, records in BSOD that were separated by 2-3 km were considered to be separate sites (D. Vujnovic pers. comm.).

3.2 Field Surveys

Fish and Wildlife Division Species at Risk (SAR) biologists conducted field surveys, in conjunction with summer staff, within their respective regional boundaries (see Map 1). Alberta Conservation Association biologists and temporary summer field staff, as well as a candidate M.Sc. student from the University of Calgary, also conducted surveys.

SAR biologists co-ordinating surveys were provided with a paper copy of all leopard frog sites within their Fish and Wildlife regional boundary. Information on specific observation details such as directions to the site, general description of the site, specific coordinates and all related BSOD records associated with the site were provided with the sites that had a high data reliability. Sites with lower data reliability were simply listed by their respective BSOD identification number. Information for all sites could be accessed from BSOD directly.

Regional SAR biologists conducting surveys or co-ordinating survey personnel were also provided with a Portable Document Format (PDF) map of all leopard frog sites within their Fish and Wildlife management region. All sites plotted on the map were labelled with a record number that could be used in BSOD to access corresponding information for the site. Each site on the map had a unique symbol and color, which provided information on the date of observation (i.e. last observed pre-1983, last observed post-1982 or no date given) and the precision of the record (i.e. within 250 m, within 2.5 km, or varying precision).

Survey personnel were provided with a survey protocol that communicated specific information on the preferred habitat, phenology and behaviour of the leopard frog. The protocol also provided instructions on survey methods. A time-constrained visual encounter survey was used as the primary sampling method for leopard frogs during the inventory. Under this method, optimal frog habitat was walked in a systematic and thorough fashion. At each site, the start and end search time was recorded and a minimum of 20 minutes was spent sampling. The total area (in square meters) searched at each site was also recorded as well as the actual or estimated numbers of leopard frogs observed in each search area. Additional information including weather conditions at the time of survey, habitat description, and management concerns as well as other herpetile species observed were also recorded on datasheets provided for the survey. The data sheet used during the inventory and a more detailed description of survey methods mentioned above are refined and summarized in Kendell (2002b).

The majority of the surveys were conducted in, or as close to, August as possible. In this way, surveys coincided with the metamorphosis and dispersal of young-of-the-year frogs from breeding ponds, potentially increasing the chance of an observation because of a higher density of frogs in a localized area. In addition, the observation of first year frogs verified successful breeding at those sites. It was determined that conducting a visual search under ideal weather conditions, in optimal habitat and during the appropriate time of day, was the most effective survey technique and maximized the chance of detecting frogs (Kendell 2002b).

4.0 RESULTS

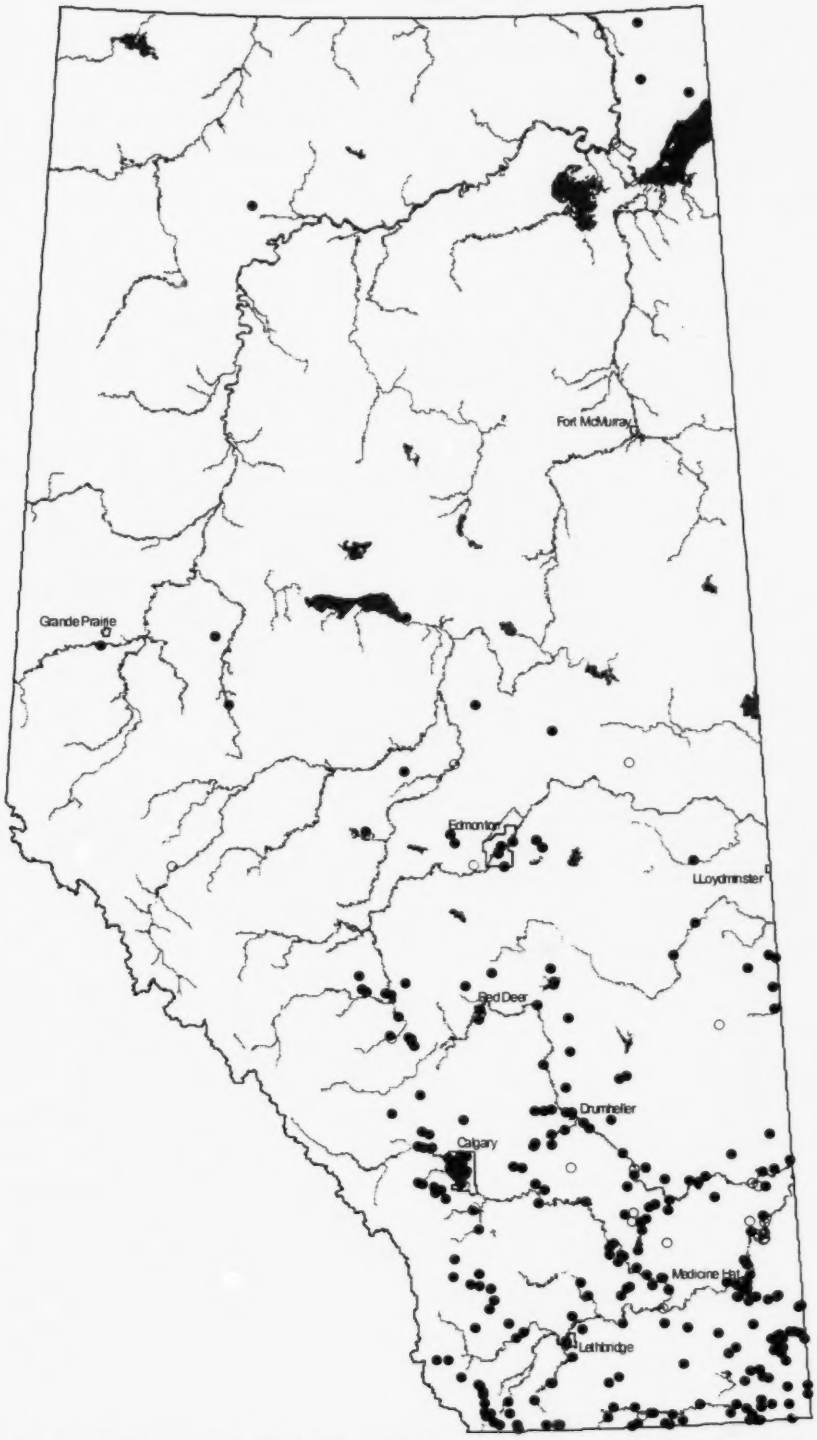
4.1 Compilation of Survey Sites

In total, 297 sites for leopard frogs were identified for survey in 2000 and 2001 (Map 2 and Appendices 1-3) based on record information held in BSOD. Twenty-eight sites were not surveyed because access was denied, poor co-ordinates were associated with the record, or other reason (Map 2 and Appendix 3).

Of the 297 sites surveyed, 136 were considered to have a high degree of data accuracy with regards to associated BSOD records. These sites had expert confirmation of the observation or audio detection of five or more adult frogs in the past. In addition, these sites included precise location information and data reliability. The remaining BSOD records (n = 161) frequently had insufficient information to determine the exact location of observation, low species identification reliability (i.e. questionable or speculative identification of the species observed) or were anecdotal observations without field confirmation. Nevertheless, attempts were made to investigate all sites.

Although the specific date of some records of the compiled data is unclear, the earliest confirmed record was 1903 and the most recent record was 1999. In general, more accurate information was associated with records that were more recent.

Data in the BSOD showed that historically the northern leopard frog occurred primarily throughout the Grassland and Parkland Natural Regions of the province. However, a limited number of records also occurred in the Boreal Forest, Foothills and Canadian Shield Natural Regions. Generally, the most westerly sites extended between Waterton National Park and north to the Rocky Mountain House area and included the Upper Foothills Natural Subregion. Several isolated records were also noted near the major centres of Hinton, Grand Prairie and High Level, as well as a number of areas north of Edmonton (Map 2). The most northerly records occurred in the extreme northeast corner of Alberta, north of Lake Claire and east of Wood Buffalo National Park, in the Kazan Upland Natural Subregion. Although many of the records appeared to be associated with major rivers, a number of records were dispersed between major drainages or associated with tributaries of larger rivers (Map 2).



Map 2. Historic distribution of leopard frog sites in Alberta (pre-2000). Solid circles (n=269) indicate sites surveyed in 2000 and 2001 and open circles (n=28) indicate sites not surveyed in 2000 and 2001.

4.2 Field Surveys

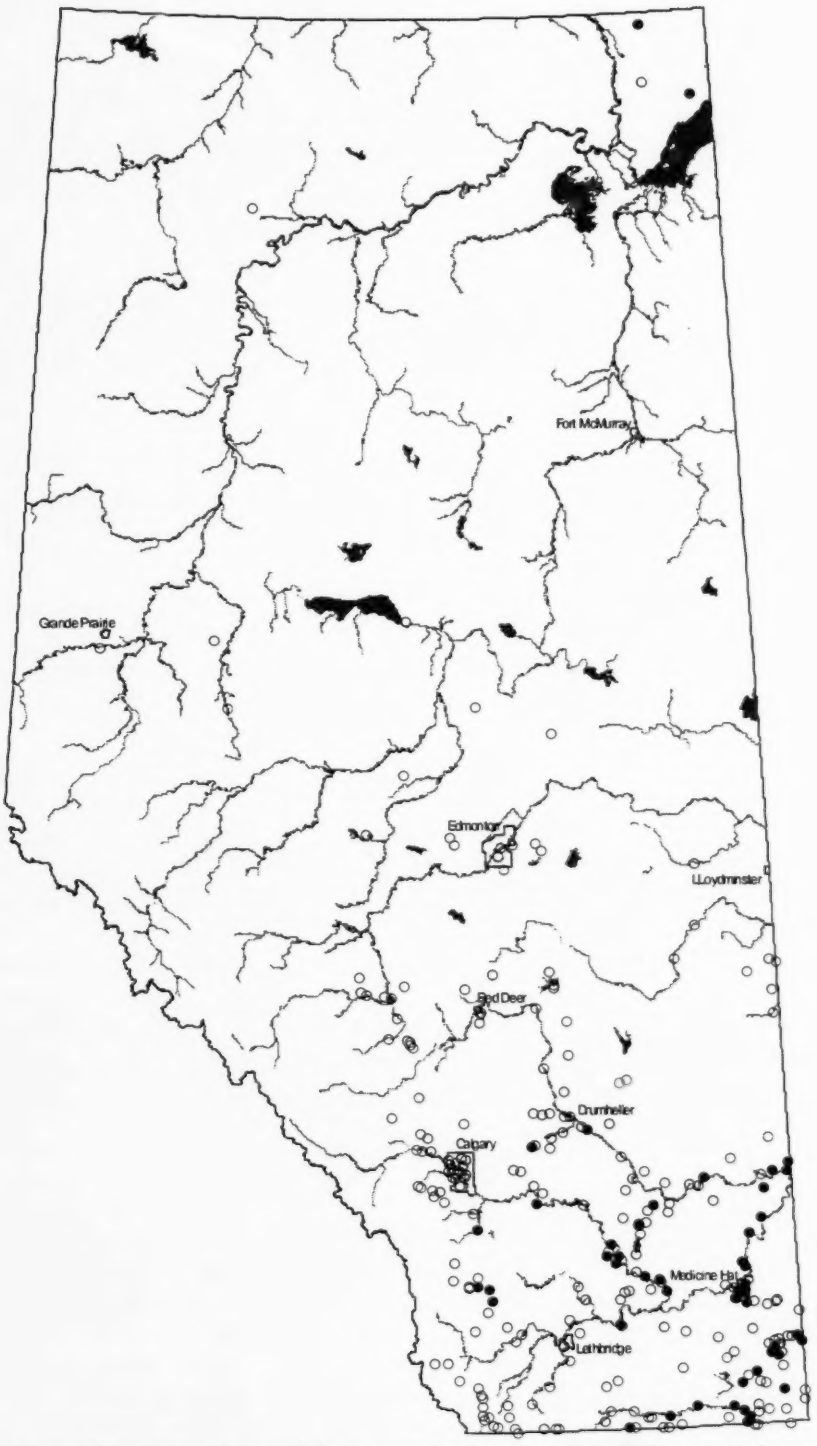
In total, 269 sites were investigated during the 2000 and 2001 field season. Of these sites, 220 were visited in 2000 and 49 were visited in 2001. Fifty-four sites were found to have leopard frogs (Map 3 and Appendices 1-2). Overall, field conditions during the 2000 and 2001 seasons were dry, and of the 269 sites investigated, 36 sites were found to be completely dry with no suitable frog habitat in the region and therefore were not visited. Seven of the sites investigated are now residential or commercial developments and occurred in or near major cities such as Calgary and Edmonton.

Of the 136 sites that had a high degree of data reliability, 94% (n = 128) were surveyed, with leopard frogs occurring at 31% (n = 40) of those sites. Of the 161 sites with lower data reliability, 88% (n = 141) were surveyed, resulting in leopard frog observations at 10% (n = 14) of those sites (Appendix 1). Of the 54 sites found to have leopard frogs, adults were observed at 41 sites and subadults were observed at 26 sites. Young-of-the-year leopard frogs were observed at 30 sites, representing confirmed breeding at those sites. Thirty-two sites (60%) were found to have 10 or fewer frogs of one age class or another. Ten or more adult frogs were observed at three sites (6%) and five sites (9%) had 10 or more subadult frogs. The maximum number of adults observed at any site was 14 (Kennedy Coulee and Michelle Reservoir). The maximum number of subadult frogs recorded at one site was 31, near Graburn in the Cypress Hills. Hundreds of young-of-the-year frogs were observed at seven sites (Appendix 1).

Sites with leopard frogs occurred in 25 natural tributaries, which were associated with six major rivers in the province (Appendix 4). Sites were also associated with two man-made drainages (Lonesome Lake/Drainage K and Minipoka Drain) both of which flowed into the Bow River. Three sites were associated with tributaries or waterbodies in closed drainages (terminal basins) and not linked with a major river. These sites included Prince's Spring, McAlpine Creek (tributary of Many Island Lake) and Manyberries Creek, Ketchum Creek (tributaries of Pakowki Lake). Frogs were also observed at Stafford Lake (Red Deer River drainage), Leland Lake (Slave River drainage) and Whylie Lake (Slave River drainage).

Fifty-two sites occupied by frogs were located within the Grassland Natural Region and two sites were located in the Canadian Shield Natural Region. Leopard frog sites occurred in six Natural Subregions, including the Foothills Fescue (n = 3), Mixedgrass (n = 8), Northern Fescue (n = 2), Dry Mixedgrass (n = 35), Montane (Cypress Hills) (n = 4) and Kazan Upland (n = 2). With the exception of Medicine Hat, leopard frogs are extirpated from all major city's where they were previously documented to occur, including Edmonton, Red Deer, Calgary and Lethbridge (Map 3).

Hard copies of the data sheets and information collected during the 2000-2001 inventory are held at the Fish and Wildlife Office located in the O.S. Longman Building, Edmonton, Alberta.



Map 3. Sites where at least one leopard frog was observed (solid circles) and sites where no frogs were observed (open circles) during the 2000 and 2001 surveys.

5.0 DISCUSSION

Despite a wide geographical range across Canada, there have been few in-depth long-term studies of Canadian populations of the northern leopard frog (Seburn and Seburn 1998). In Alberta, a handful of inventory studies have been undertaken to better understand the distribution and status of the leopard frog. The most notable was a province-wide study in 1990 by Sweet Grass Consultants Ltd. (Wershler 1991). This study was followed by a monitoring project in 1991 by Sweet Grass Consultants Ltd., in which nine sites identified from the province-wide assessment the previous year were selected for a more intensive site assessment (Wershler 1992). A number of more intensive monitoring and census studies have been undertaken at Prince's Spring and in the Cypress Hills region of the province (e.g., Hofman 1991, 1992, 1995, Yaremko 1994, Seburn 1994, Seburn et al. 1997). However, these studies were not provincial in scope, and focussed on specific regions or known frog sites.

The 2000-2001 inventory is most similar to the province-wide assessment of the leopard frog status in Alberta, conducted in 1990 (Wershler 1991). Both studies involved field surveys at documented historic sites and more recent sites. In both studies, most sites were field-checked in August, however, sites were only visited once during the 2000-2001 inventory, whereas in 1990, several sites were visited multiple times. There is no information with respect to the amount of time spent searching or the total area searched at each site in Wershler's report. This, coupled with the fact that multiple visits were made to some sites, limits its comparability to the 2000-2001 results with respects to occupied leopard frogs sites.

Wershler (1991) identified ten major populations (Appendix 5) in 1990, and these were defined as "those that represent significant clusters of townships and included some productive sites from the 1970s to the present or include sites where significant numbers of either adults or young-of-the-year were found". What constitutes a "significant number", in Wershler's report, is not defined. During 2000-2001, frogs were observed at eight of the ten major populations identified by Wershler (1991) (Appendix 5). The exceptions were the Lost River-Canal Creek site (which was dry in 2000) and the Jenner Springs site (Appendices 5 and 6). With the exception of the Finnegan and Blood Indian Creek sites, young-of-the-year frogs were recorded within all major populations (identified by Wershler) where frogs were observed in 2000-2001. However, it should be noted that the Blood Indian Creek site was visited in June and therefore before the metamorphosis of any potential tadpoles. Similarly, the Finnegan site was visited on 1 August and potentially before metamorphosis of tadpoles.

Of the ten major populations documented in the 1990 report, four were considered to be significant sites in 2000-2001 (Appendix 5). Sites that were defined as significant possessed a relatively larger number of frogs (more then ten adult and subadult frogs combined) compared to other sites. These included the Cypress Hills (Sexton Creek), lower Milk River, Prince's Spring and Red Deer River/Finnegan sites. Three new significant sites were identified in 2000-2001 and included sites in the Willow Creek drainage near Stavely, sites along the South Saskatchewan in CFB Suffield, and sites near Bow City (Bow River) (Appendix 1).

Wershler (1991) observed frogs at 13 sites during field surveys and 11 sites that were identified through a poster campaign by Alberta Fish and Wildlife and World Wildlife Fund Canada (Prairie for Tomorrow) (Appendix 6). All 24 sites were considered reliable. In 2000-2001,

leopard frogs were observed at 16 (67%) of the 24 sites that were described by Wershler (1991). Of the sites where leopard frogs were not observed in 2000-2001, four were located south of Lethbridge, and south and west of Calgary. They included Beaver Creek/Porcupine Hills, Beaupre Creek, Horse Creek (west of Cochrane) and an oxbow along the St. Mary River. The apparent absence of frogs from these areas in 2000-2001 may demonstrate further erosion of the leopard frog sites from the western portion of its range between 1990 and 2001. However, it should be noted that the failure to detect leopard frogs at these, and other sites, does not necessarily indicate the absence of frogs at those sites. For example, frogs could have been overlooked or not active, therefore not observed. The Slack Sough site, located south of Red Deer, was also recorded by the poster campaign and yielded no observations in 2000-2001. The final two records associated with the poster campaign were located in the lower reaches of the Little Bow River, near its confluence with the Oldman River. No leopard frogs were observed at either site in 2000 and 2001. However, a population was recorded in the upper reaches of the Little Bow River, south of High River in 2000.

An accurate assessment of population size and frog numbers at the sites surveyed in 2000-2001 is not possible. This is largely because each site was only visited once. Environmental conditions such as weather and ambient temperatures at the time of survey could have been less than optimal during some surveys, reducing frog activity and consequently reducing the chance of visual encounter.

Many leopard frog records held in BSOD were associated with areas of the province easily accessed by people. Many of the sites were located near rural and urban centres, or other areas frequented by people. Because of this, the range interpreted from data collected during the inventory may be biased and the occurrence of leopard frogs elsewhere in the province may be underestimated. A number of areas of the province were not surveyed but could potentially contain suitable leopard frog habitat and support a population. Similarly, additional subpopulations within the known distribution could be possible. For example, young and adult leopard frogs are capable of long distance movements overtime and have been known to travel up to 2 km in a season, between habitats, and several kilometres over consecutive years (see Dole 1971, Rittschof 1975, Merrell 1977, Hine et al. 1981, Seburn et al. 1997). These findings provide compelling evidence that additional frog sites could occur in suitable habitat within the dispersal distance of the 54 occupied sites identified in 2000-2001.

Results of the 2000-2001 inventory reflect the population distribution of the leopard frog described by Wershler (1991), Wagner (1997) and Seburn and Seburn (1998). Inventory results demonstrated no range recovery of the leopard frog since its dramatic decline during the late 1970s. In addition, of the 24 sites leopard frogs were observed at in 1990, only 16 (67%) were found to have frogs in 2000-2001. While the large population crash noted in the late 1970s is over, results from the 2000-2001 inventory suggest that leopard frog population numbers in Alberta are continuing to decline and frog sites continue to be isolated and fragmented from one another.

6.0 MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Survey protocol:
Call surveys for leopard frogs may be an inefficient method for detecting leopard frogs at sites because of their eruptive breeding behaviour, relatively quiet calls and sensitivity to environmental conditions that determine calling activity.

In contrast, late summer surveys (August), coinciding with metamorphosis of young-of-the-year, may maximize the chance of encountering frogs because of a higher density of animals (dispersing metamorphs) in a localized area. Late summer surveys also have the added benefit of assessing the reproductive success of a given site. For example, the presence of calling male frogs will not guarantee successful breeding with respect to the deposition and development of egg masses and complete metamorphosis of tadpoles and successful dispersal of young frogs.

Late summer and early fall may also be a potentially useful survey time, as adults and other age classes began to congregate along water bodies near potential hibernation sites. Late fall surveys are key in identifying important over-wintering sites. The revised northern leopard frog sampling protocol (Kendell 2002b) should be followed for future leopard frog inventories and for the general survey of leopard frogs in Alberta.

Update of current status report:
The leopard frog status report (Wagner 1997) should be updated to reflect recent information obtained during the 2000-2001 inventory and put forward for consideration by the Alberta Endangered Species Conservation Committee (ESCC) and re-evaluation of its legislative status.

A province wide census should be undertaken every five years to re-evaluate and determine the most current population status of the leopard frog at historic sites and more recent sites. Monitoring on a more frequent basis may be required to more accurately evaluate population demographics and habitat use at occupied leopard frog sites.

Protection of Habitats:
Over the last decade a wealth of information relating to the natural history, behaviour and habitat requirements of the northern leopard frog has been acquired through a number of studies and projects. To ensure extant populations of leopard frogs remain viable over the long-term, a new program should be created that focuses on the protection and enhancement of habitat at occupied sites. The primary objective of this program would focus on the protection and enhancement of critical habitats that are required by leopard frogs for breeding, summering and over-wintering. Of utmost importance will be maintaining a positive relationship between landowners and those agencies implementing a habitat program. Education and co-operation will be instrumental for such a program to be a success.

Reintroduction Projects:
The northern leopard frog exhibits many of the requirements proposed in conservation literature for successful translocations (Fisher 1999). Conservation-oriented translocations are proven and effective tools for the conservation of 'endangered' amphibian species and frequently result in the successful re-establishment of stable breeding populations (Conant 1988, Denton et al. 1997, Fisher 1999, Sarrazin 2000).

In Alberta, remaining leopard frog populations are fragmented and isolated, making them vulnerable to disturbance, disease and natural disasters, which could potentially lead to further local extirpations. With minimal prospect of natural recolonization of its former distribution, the re-establishment of leopard frogs at historic sites is therefore dependent on transplanting individuals from existing major breeding populations in southern Alberta (Cottonwood Consultants 1986, Roberts 1987, Wershler 1991). The reintroduction of the leopard frog into its historic range would reduce its restricted breeding distribution and sensitivity to environmental changes and stresses that affect localized populations.

In 1998, the Alberta Fish and Wildlife Division began to explore the feasibility of reintroducing leopard frogs into formerly occupied habitats in the upper Red Deer River and North Saskatchewan River drainage basins in Alberta (Fisher 1999). A pilot reintroduction project was initiated in 1999 at the Raven Brood Trout Station near Caroline, Alberta (Wendlandt and Takats 1999). The project involved the captive rearing of leopard frogs from egg stage of development to metamorphosed frog, in two man-made outdoor ponds.

The primary objective of the project is to re-establish leopard frogs in the headwaters of the upper Red Deer River and North Saskatchewan River drainages, consequently allowing natural downstream dispersal along these watersheds. Over a three year period more than 4500 young of the year leopard frogs have been released into historic habitat in the upper headwaters of the Red Deer River near Caroline, Alberta (Kendell 2001). In 2001, 750 young frogs were released at a new pilot release site in the upper headwaters of the North Saskatchewan River near Rocky Mountain House, Alberta (Kendell 2002a).

The observation of at least 10 individual leopard frogs and documentation of calling activity in 2001 at the Raven River reintroduction site provides compelling evidence for the initial success of the project (see Kendell 2002a). Long-term monitoring at release sites is critical to understanding dispersal rates, habitat use and general assessment of the productivity of established populations.

Results from the 2000-2001 inventory can be used to help identify new potential draw sites for egg masses to be used for captive rearing at the Raven Brood Trout Station and released at designated release sites. In addition, unoccupied sites identified during the inventory, in areas targeted for possible leopard frog reintroductions, could be considered as possible release sites. These sites would need to be carefully assessed in order to confirm that they are unoccupied by leopard frogs. Consideration should only be given to sites with long-term protection and with suitable breeding, summering and over-wintering habitat.

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Appendix 1. Northern leopard frog observations during the 2000-2001 inventory.

Record*	Date	Site Description	Latitude	Longitude	Adult	Sub-adult	YOY
31	26-Aug-00	Red Creek, west of Coutts	49.0	-112.1	1		
38	2000	Milk River Natural Area	49.0	-110.7	2		
107	28-Jul-00	Kennedy Creek, southeast of Onefore	49.0	-110.7	14	7	350
36 (2 sites)	27-Aug-00	Police Creek; Writing on Stone Provincial Park	49.1	-111.6			6
32	4-May-00	Breed Creek, north of Aden	49.1	-111.3	2	1	
47	17-Aug-00	Milk River, south of Pakowki Lake	49.1	-110.9	2	1	1
39	18-Aug-00	Milk River Natural Area	49.1	-110.7	1		1
8	5-Aug-00	Bare Creek, east of Manyberries	49.2	-110.3	1	1	
53	7-Aug-00	Ketchum Creek, east of Pakowki Lake	49.3	-110.8			1
39042	7-Aug-00	Mannyberries area / tributary of Manyberries Creek	49.4	-110.6	8		
8233/54255	28-Aug-00	Michelle Reservoir, northeast of Manyberries	49.5	-110.4	14	4	6
8234	1-Aug-00	Lodge Creek, east of Manyberries	49.5	-110.4	2		153
8214	28-Aug-00	Thelma Creek, south of Elkwater	49.5	-110.3			4
8026	1-Aug-00	Lodge Creek, Eagle Butte area	49.6	-110.4			30
56 (8 sites)	28-Jul-00	Sexton Creek and ponds; Cypress Hills area	49.6	-110.3	32	4	785
51281	27-Jul-01	Graburn, Cypress Hills Provincial Park	49.6	-110.0		31	
57	9-May-00	RANA Site, Cypress Hills Provincial Park	49.7	-110.1	5	14	
51320	7-Aug-00	Oldman River, near Taber	49.8	-112.2	1		
14	24-Jul-00	Bullshead Creek, near Dunmore	49.9	-110.8			44
16	24-Jul-00	Seven Persons Creek, near Medicine Hat	49.9	-110.8	1		6
119	28-Jul-00	Bullshead Reservoir, south of Medicine Hat	49.9	-110.6	2	2	11
11	21-Jul-01	McAlpine Creek, south of Walsh	49.9	-110.0	3		
67 (2 sites)	21-Aug-00	Willow Creek, west of Claresholm	50.0	-113.7	6	5	
63	24-Jul-00	Kin Coulee / Connaught Golf Course, Medicine Hat	50.0	-110.7	1		144
5137	31-Aug-00	South Saskatchewan River, Medicine Hat	50.0	-110.7		1	5
8027	31-Aug-00	South Saskatchewan River, Medicine Hat	50.0	-110.7	2	6	1
64	17-Jul-00	Strathcona Park, Medicine Hat	50.0	-110.6	3		199

* Records 1 to 136 represent ANHIC records; other numbers indicate BSOD records; records in bold represent sites with 10 or more adult and subadult frogs combined.

YOY = Young-of-the-year.

Appendix 1. *continued*

Record*	Date	Site Description	Latitude	Longitude	Adult	Sub-adult	YOY
71	20-Aug-00	Willow Creek, west of Stavely	50.1	-113.9	2	12	
69 (3 sites)	20-Aug-00	Pine Coulee, west of Stavely	50.1	-113.7	5	36	
131	24-Aug-00	Twelve Mile Coulee, near Rolling Hills	50.1	-111.7		3	4
66	23-Aug-00	Bow River, southeast of Hays	50.1	-111.6	3	3	3
31624	31-Aug-00	South Saskatchewan River, near Medicine Hat	50.1	-110.6		3	1
32403	24-Aug-00	Bow River, southwest of Rolling Hills	50.2	-111.8		7	25
73	14-Sep-00	South Saskatchewan River, CFB Suffield	50.2	-110.7	3	11	5
72	30-Aug-00	Old Channel Lake, CFB Suffield	50.2	-110.6		5	13
109	5-Aug-00	Lonesome Lake, south of Bow City	50.3	-112.3	4	1	2
75	5-Aug-00	Circle E Ranch, near Bow City	50.3	-112.2	1		6
76	6-Aug-00	Minipoka Drain, near Scandia	50.3	-112.2	1		
79 (3 sites)	5-Aug-00	Bow City area	50.4	-112.2	3	9	100's
114	30-Sep-00	Sherwood Forest, CFB Suffield	50.5	-110.6	1		
80	21-Jul-00	Little Bow River, south of High River town site	50.6	-113.9	3		8
39181	18-Sep-01	Stafford Lake, north of Brooks	50.6	-111.9	4		
113	5-Aug-00	Whitco Springs, CFB Suffield	50.6	-110.4		1	
32397	29-Aug-01	Princess, north of	50.7	-111.7	1		
82	4-Aug-00	Bow River, near of Arrowwood	50.8	-113.1	2		100's
83	10-Aug-00	Princes Spring, north of CFB Suffield	50.8	-110.3	7	3	5
86	7-Jun-00	Blood Indian Creek, north of Jenner	50.9	-111.1	4		
85	10-Aug-00	Kennedy Coulee, east of Empress	50.9	-110.2	2		
87	11-Aug-00	Empress Creek, near Empress	51.0	-110.0	1		3
78	01-Aug-01	Finnigan / Spring Creek	51.1	-112.1	6	6	
93	28-Jun-00	Serviceberry Creek, near Rockyford	51.2	-113.2		1	
118	20-Jun-00	Red Deer River, near Atlas Coal Mine	51.3	-112.5	2		
2	19-Aug-00	Wylie Lake, east of Wood Buffalo National Park	59.3	-110.3	1		
5479	20-Aug-00	Leland Lake, east of Fitzgerald	59.9	-111.0	1		

* Records 1 to 136 represent ANHIC records; other numbers indicate BSOD records; records in bold represent sites with 10 or more adult or subadult frogs combined.
YOY = Young-of-the-year.

Hard copies of the data sheets and information collected during the 2000 and 2001 inventory are held at the O.S. Longman Building, Edmonton, Alberta.

Appendix 2. Northern leopard frog sites surveyed with no leopard frogs observed during the 2000-2001 inventory.

Record*	Date	Site Description	Latitude	Longitude
6	9-Aug-00	Belly River, west of Mountain View	49.0	-113.7
19651	9-Aug-00	Boundary Creek	49.0	-113.5
51310	22-Jul-00	Outpost Lake; Police Outpost Provincial Park	49.0	-113.5
8042	23-Jul-00	Rolph Creek, near Taylorville	49.0	-113.1
8038	23-Jul-00	Lynn Sommerfeldt land	49.0	-113.0
51312	23-Jul-00	Milk River, near Writing On Stone Provincial Park	49.0	-113.0
41	26-Aug-00	Red Creek, west of Coutts	49.0	-112.0
40	26-Aug-00	Police Creek; Writing On Stone Provincial Park	49.0	-111.7
8170	30-Aug-01	Milk River, 16 miles east and 8 miles south	49.0	-111.7
51292	26-Aug-00	St. Kilda area	49.0	-111.5
1	26-Aug-01	Milk River, west of Wild Horse	49.0	-110.6
27	26-Aug-01	Milk River, west of Wild Horse	49.0	-110.6
8112/8121/51322	29-Aug-00	Wild Horse Area	49.0	-110.2
51296	8-Aug-00	Cottonwood Creek, south of Twin Butte	49.1	-113.9
24	8-Aug-00	Maskinonge Lake, near HWY 6	49.1	-113.8
35	9-Aug-00	Crooked Creek, south of Twin Butte	49.1	-113.8
5	9-Aug-00	Sofa Mountain Beaver Ponds	49.1	-113.7
3	9-Aug-00	Romeril Dam, near Mountain View	49.1	-113.6
8211	24-Jul-00	Milk River Tributary, northeast of Del Bonita	49.1	-112.4
26	24-Jul-00	Milk River town site (lagoon)	49.1	-112.1
28	26-Aug-00	Milk River, southwest of Milk River town site	49.1	-111.9
42	26-Aug-00	Milk River, southwest of Milk River town site	49.1	-111.9
29	15-Aug-00	Milk River, at Pinhorn Grazing Reserve	49.1	-110.9
8201	29-Aug-00	Lost River	49.1	-110.6
43	19-Aug-00	Lost River, west of Onefour	49.1	-110.5
46	2000	Onefour, area near	49.1	-110.5
44	2000	Sage Creek, east of Onefour	49.1	-110.3
31610	2000	Dungaryan Creek, north of Waterton Lakes National Park	49.2	-113.9
51311	9-Aug-00	Mami Creek, near Hillspring	49.2	-113.6
4	22-Jul-00	St. Mary River, near Spring Coulee	49.2	-113.3
48	24-Aug-00	Milk River Ridge, northeast of Del Bonita	49.2	-112.3
45	19-Aug-00	Canal Creek, northwest of Onefour	49.2	-110.6
39037	29-Aug-00	Alberta/Saskatchewan boarder, south of Cypress Hills Provincial Park	49.2	-110.1
22	5-Aug-00	Yarrow Creek, west of Twin Butte	49.3	-113.9
23	5-Aug-00	Drywood Creek, north of Twin Butte	49.3	-113.9
50	25-Jul-00	Middle Coulee, near McNab	49.3	-112.4
48288	2000	Mannyberries Creek, south east of Manyberries	49.3	-110.5
54256	2000	Sage Creek, near Onefour	49.3	-110.5

* Records 1 to 136 represent ANHIC records; other numbers indicate BSOD records.

Appendix 2. *continued*

Record*	Date	Site Description	Latitude	Longitude
49	19-Aug-00	Middle Creek Reservoir – Lodge Creek, south of Cypress Hills Provincial Park	49.3	-110.0
127	4-Aug-00	Beauvais Lake; Beauvais Lake Provincial Park	49.4	-114.1
34	5-Aug-00	Indian Farm Creek, near Pincher Creek town site	49.4	-113.9
8319	5-Aug-00	Foothills Creek, east of Pincher Creek town site	49.4	-113.9
51	21-Jul-00	Pinepound Creek, near Spring Coulee	49.4	-113.1
54	21-Jul-00	St. Mary River, Blood Indian Reserve	49.4	-113.1
8203/51318	24-Jul-00	Tyrrell Lake (east side)	49.4	-112.2
55	13-Aug-00	Manyberries Creek, near Manyberries	49.4	-110.7
9	5-Aug-00	Lodge Creek, south of Cypress Hills	49.4	-110.3
32380	25-Aug-00	Foremost	49.5	-111.5
32391	29-Aug-01	Peigan Creek, south of	49.5	-110.9
51317	4-Aug-00	Frank Slide area	49.6	-114.4
8035	4-Aug-00	Burmis Bridge Marsh	49.6	-114.3
8220	21-Jul-00	Pothole Creek	49.6	-112.8
15	2000	Peigan Creek, south of Medicine Hat	49.6	-110.8
51294/31626	28-Aug-00	Eagle Butte area	49.6	-110.4
123	25-Aug-00	Spring Creek, Cypress Hills Provincial Park	49.6	-110.3
8190/8200	28-Aug-00	Thelma Creek	49.6	-110.3
31629	29-Aug-01	Elkwater, south of	49.6	-110.3
51289	29-Jul-01	Elkwater, south of – Cypress Hills Provincial Park	49.6	-110.3
8315	10-Aug-00	Oldman River Campground	49.7	-113.5
8013/8033	20-Jul-00	Lethbridge, in or near	49.7	-112.9
9522	25-Aug-00	Bow Island, south of	49.7	-111.4
8181	25-Aug-00	Seven Person's Creek (Red Rock Coulee)	49.7	-111.0
13	10-Aug-00	Seven Persons, east of Bow Island	49.7	-110.6
10	2000	Elkwater Lake, Cypress Hills Provincial Park	49.7	-110.3
8167	2000	SW corner of Cypress Hill Provincial Park	49.7	-110.3
31628	29-Aug-01	Spruce Coulee (Cypress Hills Provincial Park)	49.7	-110.2
31625	29-Aug-01	Graburn Monument / Gap, Cypress Hills Provincial Park	49.7	-110.1
59	3-Aug-00	Beaver Creek, north of Pincher Creek town site	49.8	-113.9
7479	3-Aug-00	Moyninhan Ranch, west of Claresholm	49.8	-113.9
32382-83	10-Aug-00	Willow Creek, west of Stavely	49.8	-113.5
8036	10-Aug-00	Willow Creek, Oldmam River confluence	49.8	-113.4
58	21-Aug-00	Oldman River, near Diamond City	49.8	-112.7
7	7-Aug-00	Oldman River, near Taber Municipal Park	49.8	-112.2
37	25-Aug-00	Yellow Lake, southwest of Bow Island	49.8	-111.7
51319/8052	22-Aug-00	Picture Butte reservoir	49.9	-112.8
51291	30-Aug-00	Cavan Lake Area	49.9	-110.4
12	29-Aug-00	Dunmore – Elkwater Lake turnoff	49.9	-110.3
60	2000	Mackay Creek, south of Walsh	49.9	-110.0

* Records 1 to 136 represent ANHIC records; other numbers indicate BSOD records.

Appendix 2. *continued*

Record*	Date	Site Description	Latitude	Longitude
62	20-Aug-00	Trout Creek, west of Claresholm	50.0	-113.8
65	7-Aug-00	Little Bow, south of Travers Reservoir	50.0	-112.6
51321	22-Aug-00	Vauxhall reservoir	50.0	-112.2
8225	6-Aug-01	Irvine, west of	50.0	-110.6
8327	2000	Rose Creek, west of Irvine	50.0	-110.3
31620	19-Aug-00	Unnamed creek, at HWY 527	50.1	-114.0
31621	19-Aug-00	Willow Creek, west of Stavely	50.1	-114.0
68	7-Aug-00	Little Bow, south of Travers	50.1	-112.7
8037	23-Aug-00	Vauxhall, at DU project	50.1	-112.1
8041	24-Aug-00	Vauxhall Canal	50.1	-112.1
8114	24-Aug-00	Hays irrigation canal	50.1	-111.8
8213	23-Aug-00	12 Mile Coulee Creek	50.1	-111.7
1540	24-Jul-00	Echodale Park, west of Medicine Hat	50.1	-110.9
8050	30-Aug-00	Redcliff Coulee	50.1	-110.8
70	31-Aug-00	Mitchell Creek, northeast of Medicine Hat	50.1	-110.6
128	12-Jul-00	Chain Lakes Reservoir	50.2	-114.2
32402	20-Aug-00	Oxley (Oxley Creek)	50.2	-113.9
32400	24-Aug-00	EID Canal southeast of Scandia	50.2	-112.0
8326	12-Jul-00	Mosquito Creek	50.3	-114.2
51299	6-Aug-00	Scandia, near Bow City	50.3	-112.1
110	5-Aug-00	Lonesome Lake, north of	50.4	-112.3
77	23-Jun-00	Lake Newell, south of	50.4	-111.9
51323	5-Jun-00	Brooks, south of	50.5	-111.9
17	5-Jun-00	Johnson/Jamieson Lake, north of Brooks	50.6	-111.9
32396	5-Jun-00	Onetree Reservoir	50.6	-111.8
33	21-Jul-00	Okotoks Campground	50.7	-113.9
108	2001	San Francisco Lake, near Brooks	50.7	-112.1
116	6-Jun-00	Millicent	50.7	-111.8
32390	6-Jun-00	Princess	50.7	-111.5
7131	26-Sep-01	Millarville, west of	50.8	-114.3
32394	4-Aug-00	Bow River, southwest of Bassano	50.8	-112.6
8199/19655	17-Jun-00	Dinosaur Park	50.8	-111.5
81	9-Aug-00	Jenner Springs, near Jenner	50.8	-111.0
94	25-Jul-00	Priddis Creek, near Priddis	50.9	-114.6
1573	25-Jul-00	Wildrose Country Estates (Bragg Creek)	50.9	-114.6
20	25-Jul-00	Priddis Creek Golf Course	50.9	-114.4
111	25-Jul-00	Fish Creek / Whiskey Creek, near Priddis	50.9	-114.4
21	25-Jul-00	Priddis / Fish Creek	50.9	-114.3
96	24-Jul-00	Fish Creek Park, Calgary	50.9	-114.1
1561	5-Jul-00	Stobart	50.9	-113.2
8031	5-Oct-01	Gleichen, in or near	50.9	-113.1
1550	2001	Brooks Pheasant Hatchery (area)	50.9	-112.0

* Records 1 to 136 represent ANHIC records; other numbers indicate BSOD records.

Appendix 2. *continued*

Record*	Date	Site Description	Latitude	Longitude
18965	2001	Brooks, north of	50.9	-112.0
117	6-Jun-00	Wardlow	50.9	-111.6
84	7-Jun-00	Howie	50.9	-111.3
5484	16-Oct-01	Red Deer River, north of	50.9	-111.2
51309	10-Aug-00	Red Deer River, northwest of Bindloss	50.9	-110.4
9524	17-Sep-01	Calgary, west of	51.0	-114.2
97	13-Jul-00	Glenmore Park, Calgary	51.0	-114.1
100	18-Jul-00	Westmill Shopping Center - Calgary	51.0	-114.1
98	14-Jul-00	Beaver Dam Flats Park, Calgary	51.0	-114.0
99	10-Jul-00	Inglewood Bird Sanctuary - Calgary	51.0	-114.0
25	2-Jun-00	Eagle Lake	51.0	-113.3
124	16-Oct-01	Red Deer River / Douglas Creek	51.0	-112.0
122	6-Jun-00	Hutton	51.0	-111.8
101	3-Aug-00	Westchete Gravel Pits -Calgary (Bowmont Flats)	51.1	-114.2
9481	26-Jul-00	Bearspaw	51.1	-114.2
95	14-Jul-00	Edworthy Park, Calgary	51.1	-114.1
1571	3-Aug-00	Nosehill Park, Calgary	51.1	-114.1
8116/8124	20-Jul-00	Nose Creek (Calgary)	51.1	-114.1
8110/8056/11092/ 8030/20382-84	11-Jul-00	Calgary	51.1	-114.1
8125	20-Jul-00	Airport Road (Calgary)	51.1	-114.0
51324	2-Jun-00	Strathmore, area	51.1	-113.4
1575	2000	Alkali Creek, west of Bindloss	51.1	-110.7
9562	26-Jul-00	Beaupre Creek	51.2	-114.6
104	26-Jul-00	Mitford, west of Calgary	51.2	-114.5
103	19-Jul-00	Bighill Creek (Cochrane)	51.2	-114.4
102	14-Jul-00	Beddington Creek, Calgary	51.2	-114.1
9519	25-May-00	Rockyford	51.2	-113.1
88	28-Jun-00	Severn Reservoir / Creek	51.2	-113.0
9455/19656	11-Aug-00	Acadia Valley	51.2	-110.3
1037	19-Jul-00	Bottrel – Horse Creek	51.3	-114.6
1572/39031	19-Jul-00	Bottrel	51.3	-114.5
9513/11091	26-May-00	Rosebud	51.3	-112.9
8021	6-Sep-01	Locality of Beyon, in or near	51.3	-112.8
1568	10-Sep-01	Crossfield	51.4	-114.0
5181	6-Sep-01	Willow Creek area	51.4	-112.6
89	20-Jun-00	Little Fish Lake	51.4	-112.2
51335	19-Jul-00	Harold Creek (Waiparous)	51.5	-114.9
1038	27-Jun-00	Carbon	51.5	-113.1
32385	24-May-00	Sharples	51.5	-113.0
51327	24-May-00	Hesketh, northeast of	51.5	-112.9

* Records 1 to 136 represent ANHIC records; other numbers indicate BSOD records.

Appendix 2. *continued*

Record*	Date	Site Description	Latitude	Longitude
51314	24-May-00	Kneehill Creek, near Drumheller	51.5	-112.8
8192	31-Aug-01	Sundre, south of - Fallen Timber Creek	51.6	-114.6
8005	6-Sep-01	Morrin	51.7	-112.8
8018-20	6-Sep-01	Drumheller area	51.7	-112.7
136	14-Jul-00	Dowling Lake, southwest corner	51.7	-112.1
135	4-Jul-00	Dowling Lake, southeast corner	51.7	-112.0
19657	29-May-00	Trochu, at Red Deer River	51.8	-113.0
5921	3-Aug-00	Big Valley area	51.9	-112.7
8034	20-Aug-01	Crammond, in or near	52.0	-114.7
8193	20-Aug-01	Caroline, 6 mile S of	52.0	-114.6
105	5-Aug-00	Unnamed creek, near Ricinus	52.1	-115.0
120	15-Aug-00	Beaver Creek, near Caroline	52.1	-114.7
51333	20-Aug-01	Raven River, near Caroline	52.1	-114.7
51332	31-Aug-01	Clearwater River, near Dovercourt	52.2	-114.9
90	2-Aug-00	Slacks Slough, south of Red Deer	52.2	-113.8
5226	3-Aug-00	Stettler, area near	52.2	-112.7
51315	14-Jul-01	Eyehill Creek, near Bodo	52.2	-110.1
51326	2000	Gaetz Lakes, Red Deer	52.3	-113.8
125	16-Aug-00	Tail Creek, near Nevis	52.3	-113.1
1577	14-Aug-00	Chambers Creek Camp Ground	52.4	-115.3
9546	17-Oct-00	Chambers Lake / Buster Creek	52.4	-115.2
19	4-Aug-00	Crimson Lake Provincial Park	52.4	-115.0
18	15-Aug-00	Rocky Mountain House area	52.4	-114.9
51316	14-Jul-01	Hayter, north of	52.4	-110.1
5487	5-Aug-00	West Lobstick Creek, northeast of Rocky Mountain House	52.5	-114.8
9497/9499	2-Aug-00	Aspen Beach Provincial Park	52.5	-114.0
9458	3-Aug-00	Rochon Sands Provincial Park	52.5	-112.9
9462	15-Aug-00	Buffalo Lake	52.5	-112.9
19658	15-Jul-01	Black Creek, southeast of Ribstone	52.5	-110.4
9496	4-Aug-00	Grace Creek, northwest of Rocky Mountain House	52.6	-115.3
51337	2-Aug-00	J.J. Coullet Natural Area, near Morningside	52.6	-113.6
608	18-Sep-01	Buffalo Lake, north of	52.6	-112.9
91	17-Aug-00	Killarney Lake	52.6	-110.1
9516	14-Jul-01	Dillberry Lake	52.6	-110.0
92	16-Aug-00	Hardisty	52.7	-111.3
52782	30-Jul-01	Battle River, near Wainwright	52.9	-111.0
132	7-Sep-00	Cawes Lake	53.4	-113.4
9445/9448/9452	2000	Vermillion Provincial Park	53.4	-111.0
134	2000	Edmonton, U of A farm	53.5	-113.5
133	2000	Walter Lake / Blackfoot Recreation area, near Uncas	53.5	-112.9

* Records 1 to 136 represent ANHIC records; other numbers indicate BSOD records.

Appendix 2. *continued*

Record*	Date	Site Description	Latitude	Longitude
106	8-27 Aug 01	Heatherdown, near Stony Plain	53.6	-114.1
51334	8-24 Aug 01	Kilini Creek: Glory Hills	53.6	-114.1
8032	18-Sep-00	Edmonton	53.6	-113.5
1581	2001	Edmonton	53.6	-113.3
1580	2001	Ardrossan, west of	53.6	-113.0
1576	8-27 Aug 01	Chip Lake area	53.7	-115.3
130	8-27 Aug 01	Thunder Lake Provincial Park	54.1	-114.7
51328	23-Aug-01	Long Lake Provincial Park	54.4	-112.8
8184	16-Aug-01	Little Smoky, south of	54.6	-117.1
8366	24-Aug-01	Cross Lake Provincial Park	54.7	-113.8
959	9-Sep-00	Muskoseepi Reservoir	55.1	-118.9
8183	28-Sep-00	Sturgeon Creek	55.2	-117.3
51330	16-Aug-01	Lesser Slave Lake Provincial Park	55.3	-114.7
9498	23-Aug-01	Highlevel, east of	58.5	-116.9
39041	19-Aug-00	Bocquene Lake and wetlands, east of Wood Buffalo National Park	59.5	-111.0

* Records 1 to 136 represent ANHIC records; other numbers indicate BSOD records.

Hard copies of the data sheets and information collected during the 2000 and 2001 inventory are held at the O.S. Longman Building, Edmonton, Alberta.

Appendix 3. Northern leopard frog sites not investigated during the 2000-2001 inventory because access was denied, poor site description or coordinates, or other reason.

Record*	Site Description	Latitude	Longitude
30	Milk River	49.1	-112.0
61	Bow Island, along Bow River	49.9	-111.7
8024	Tilley, in or near	50.4	-111.6
51300	Tilly	50.4	-111.6
7489	CFB Suffield	50.4	-110.5
7493	CFB Suffield	50.4	-110.4
7495	CFB Suffield	50.4	-110.4
115	Bull Springs Coulee, at South Sask. River	50.5	-110.5
7490	CFB Suffield	50.5	-110.4
7494	CFB Suffield	50.5	-110.4
51301	Cassels	50.6	-112.0
112	Dishpan Lake - Ross Depression	50.6	-110.6
7491	CFB Suffield	50.6	-110.4
7492	CFB Suffield	50.6	-110.4
74	Rock Lake	50.7	-112.0
5486	Okotoks, northeast of	50.8	-113.9
52	Alkali Creek, northeast of Buffalo	50.8	-110.4
121	Cavandish	50.9	-110.5
51303	Red Deer at Hutton Springs	51.0	-112.0
51325/8054	Hussar, east of	51.1	-112.7
51331	Clearwater River	52.1	-114.9
129	Gooseberry Lake	52.1	-110.8
9456	Hinton	53.4	-117.8
52482	Devon, northwest of	53.4	-113.8
51287	Rossington	54.2	-114.1
9475	Garner Lake Provincial Park	54.2	-111.8
8004	Lake Athabasca	59.0	-111.5
126	Fitzgerald	59.8	-111.6

* Records 1 to 136 represent ANHIC records; other numbers indicate BSOD records.

Appendix 4. List of all sites occupied by leopard frogs during the 2000-2001 inventory grouped by drainage; the number of sites associated with each drainage, tributary or waterbody are indicated in brackets.

Drainage	First Tributary (Second Tributary)	Waterbody	Number of Sites
Red Deer River (7)	-	-	1
	Onetree Creek	-	1
	Blood Indian Creek	-	1
	Empress Creek	-	1
	Kennedy Coulee (tributary)	-	1
	Spring Creek	-	1
	Serviceberry Creek (Rosebud River)	-	1
	-	Stafford Lake (1)	1
Oldman River (4)	-	-	1
	Pine Creek (Willow Creek)	-	1
	Willow Creek	-	2
South Saskatchewan River (12)	-	-	7
	Kin Coulee (tributary)	-	1
	Old Channel Lake	-	1
	Bullshead Creek	-	1
	Persons Creek	-	2
Bow River (10)	-	-	4
	Twelve Mile Coulee (tributary)	-	1
	Lonesome Lake/Drainage K	-	2
	Minipoka Drain	-	1
	Little Bow River	-	1
Milk River (15)	-	-	3
	Kennedy Creek	-	1
	Police Creek	-	1
	Red Creek	-	1
	Thelma Creek (Lodge Creek)	-	1
	Sexton Creek (Lodge Creek)	-	1
	Lodge Creek (Lodge Creek)	-	3
	Battle Creek	-	2
	Bare Creek (Lodge Creek)	-	1
	Breed Creek	-	1
Slave River (2)	(via Dog River) (1)	Leland Lake	1
	(via Lake Athabasica) (1)	Wylie Lake	1
-	-	Prince's Spring (1)	1
(tributary of Many Island Lake) (1)	McAlpine Creek	-	1
(tributary of Pakowki Lake) (2)	Manyberries Creek	-	1
	Ketchum Creek	-	1
		TOTAL	54

Numbers within brackets indicate total number of sites associated with a waterbody, tributary or major drainage.

Appendix 5. Ten major leopard frog populations identified during the 1990 inventory (Wershler 1991) and their current status with respect to the presence of frogs at one or more sites as of 2001.

Major Populations (1990)	Presence of frogs at one or more sites (2000-2001)	Record # of each site where one or more leopard frogs were detected** (significant sites in bold)
Cypress Hills (B) - reservoirs, creeks and ponds in the Cypress Hills	Present (B)	**56**, **57**, 8026, 8214, **8233/54255**, **51281**
Lost River-Canal Creek (B)	No observations (location dry)	45, 8201
Jenner Springs (B)	No observations	81
Prince's Spring (B)	Present (B)	**83**
Lower Red Deer River (B) - associated coulee streams and tributaries (downstream of Drumheller)	Present (B)	85, 86, 87, 93, 118
Milk River - associated coulee streams in vicinity of Writing on Stone Provincial Park	Present (B)	36
Lower Milk River - associated coulee streams and tributaries in vicinity	Present (B)	32, 38, 39, 47, **107**
Grand Forks - near confluence of Oldman River and Bow River; lower Bow River	Present (B)	66, 131, 32403
Red Deer River – Finnegan (B)*	Present	**78**
Blood Indian Creek; Jenner-North (B)*	Present	86

* Unconfirmed major population in 1990.

** Records 1 to 136 are ANHIC records; other numbers indicate BSOD records; records in bold indicate sites with 10 or more adult or subadult frogs combined in 2000-2001.

(B) = Evidence of breeding (i.e. young-of-the-year observed).

Appendix 6. Sites occupied by leopard frogs in 1990 (Wershler 1991) compared with results from the 2000-2001 at the same sites.

Site No.*	Sites occupied by leopard frogs in 1990	Leopard frog observed? (2000-2001)	Record**
1	Canal Creek (B)	No (site dry)	45
2	Prince's Spring (B)	Yes (B)	**(83)**
3	Cypress Hills – Sexton Creek (B)	Yes (B)	**(56)**
4	Cypress Hills – Reeser Lake (Battle Creek)	Yes (B)	**(57)**
5	Jenner Springs (B)	No	81
6	Old Channel Lake – CFB Suffield (B)	Yes (B)	(72)
7	Empress Creek (B)	Yes (B)	(87)
8	Kennedy's Coulee (B)	Yes (B)	(85)
9	Bow River south of Gleichen (B)	Yes (B)	(82)
10	Little Bow River – south of the Travers Reservoir (B)	No	68
11	Little Bow River, north of Coaldale (B)	No	65
12	Bow River, east of Hays	Yes (B)	(66)
13	Lodge Creek	Yes (B)	9, 49, (8026), **(8234)**
14	St. Mary River, oxbow of	No (site dry)	54
15	Police Creek, Milk River; Writing on Stone Provincial Park	Yes (B)	(36)
16	Slack Slough	No	90
17	Milk River canyon and tributaries	Yes (B)	1, 27, 29, (38), (39), (47)
18	Finnegan	Yes	(78)
19	Beaver Creek (Porcupine Hills)	No	59
20	Beaupre Creek	No	9562
21	Horse Creek, west of Cochrane	No	1037
22	Blood Indian Creek	Yes	(86)
23	Manyberries Creek and area	Yes	55, (39042)
24	City of Medicine Hat	Yes (B)	(63), (64), (5137), (8027)

* Site No. in italics indicate sites that are the result of a poster campaign by Alberta Fish and Wildlife and World Wildlife Fund Canada that solicited information on the leopard frog from the public. The listed sites were believed to be accurate (see Wershler 1991).

** Records 1 to 136 are ANHIC records; other numbers indicate BSOD records. ANHIC or BSOD records in brackets indicate sites with confirmed leopard frogs during 2000-2001 inventory; records in bold indicate sites with 10 or more adult and subadult frogs combined in 2000-2001.

(B) = Evidence of breeding (i.e. young-of-the-year observed).

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